

# RELIGION BASED INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS: DENIAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH REFERENCE TO IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN CRISES

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## ABSTRACT

The 21<sup>st</sup> century of the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium has unleashed a plethora of spectacular developments for the enrichment of the modern civilization. However on par with the positivities, negativities also are impacting the world society which ultimately threatens the entire survival of humankind. Racial discrimination, Recurring apartheid regime, intra-religious conflicts and animosities, Hegemonic entanglements, Ideology crisis, Sectarianisms are all various factors which plays a very precarious role in the globalized era. As observed in the present situation, religious conflicts pose a great threat to the existence of humans. Marx opined that religion is the opium which can gradually denigrate the entire system. That said, due to religion related enmities humans face a lot of rights violations and that is the single most focus which this descriptive writing endeavors to attend by taking into account of the happenings in Iraq and Afghanistan.

## INTRODUCTION

Conflict between Nation-states is not a new phenomenon in the globalized era. Nation states fought with each other from the age of antiquity either in organized or unorganized manner, when National interests conflicts with each other. Starting from Peloponnesian war that was between Athens and Spartan civilizations until now, only the mode of fighting differs with conventional or unconventional weapons. The proliferation of weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) made Nations deter from one another in indulging in major war as such fought during I and II world war subsequently with a gap of 21 years. The Second World War taught a lesson for all state actors, that war is not an ultimate weapon, which threatened the survival of entire humanity. The then Prime minister of India, Indira Gandhi opined that “the concept of peace has no substitute”. By following Noble ideal of Immanuel Kant, Woodrow Wilson the former jubilant President of U.S.A gave fillip to the formation of an International Organization i.e., League of Nations, which failed to meet the demand of state actors, ultimately ended up with fiasco. Obviously it is observed, that the aftermath of II world war in 1945 has seen glorious and successful U.N.O., which prevents and protects the Nations from indulging in major war. For the past 67 years, the world is free of any Major War like World War I and II, which itself is an evidence for the successful handling of adverse conditions by U.N.O. However there are numerous conflict prevails which could not be controlled by U.N.O, either because of victim states or otherwise due to the influence and impact of super power’s imperialistic concerns. There are number of cases of World conflicts in which U.N.O failed to act due to various reasons. Israel, Palestine, Afghanistan, Srilanka, Iraq, Syria, Tunisia, Egypt are all the Nations which were affected by internal and external causes of war activities in which the role of

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members of Security Council is not refuted. Particularly these victim Nations are still facing lot of problems on the basis of human rights, for which a certain level of focus is needed, the job especially should be by done scholars and exponents who specialized International relations as the research area,. This paper emulates attention by focusing upon the scenario which is prevalent in Iraq and Afghanistan where rights were denied by the state machinery itself.

### **AFGHAN CRISIS AND RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

Afghanistan is a highly ravaged country in the world either by U.S.A or erstwhile U.S.S.R. "The War against terrorism" a policy detonated by Bush administration still have a tremendous impact in this country, by which there is an absolute failure of state machinery. Even we can go to the extent of calling Afghanistan as a "failed state" in many aspects. The search for Osama bin Laden was over by killing him in the wee hours by American commando forces, but still "night raids" and "drones" are continuing to stop terrorist related activities. Afghanistan is now facing a multi-pronged attack from all sides both internal and as well as external. There is a non-stop clash between Shia and Sunni communities in this country, in which 100's and 1000's of civilians were targeted. On the other side, Taliban's are trying to capture the territory with sophisticated arms and ammunitions. The Government itself, sponsors local militia to control the situation and pacify the protesters in a very stringent manner. U.S.A backed International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) promised to withdraw in 2014. But war between Security forces and Taliban's on the other side happens, which causes enduring violation among civilian groups. In 2011, the armed conflict of Taliban was escalated to the core, thus causing major human rights violations in Afghanistan. Women are the worst affected in the clashes between various sectors. The incident of American pastor burning "Koran", kindled ferocious and animosity among various groups. It is reported that there are around 1462 civilians dead in 2011. Due to "Night raid" by International forces there were 368 people dead in the first six months of 2011. NATO, trained 1, 30,000 strong police forces and 1, 71,600 soldiers by October 2011, in order to tackle internal strife and terrorist activities. This training itself comes to halt, because the trainees attacked their International mentors due to religious fundamentalism which were indoctrinated by religious leaders. There were unprecedented rape, torture and illegal collection of tax in the Northern region causing untold sufferings among civilian groups. Taliban's target mostly school going girl Children, who were misused for suicide bomb attacks. Those imprisoned in jails come across beating, electric shock, stressing position, removal of genitals, hanging detainees by their wrists etc. Around 700 women were arrested for immoral activities and imprisoned. The justice system is either weak or compromised and sided with the ruling Government. Moreover Taliban courts are huge enough in Northern area which still follows traditional Justice Mechanisms and punishment procedures. A unique practice "Baad" is followed by which a girl child is gifted as compensation for wrong doings by a family to another. It is estimated that 600 prisoners in 2001 is increased to 19000 in 2011. In Afghan jails the responsibility of prison was shifted from Ministry of justice to interior, in view of escape of 476 prisoners from Afghan jail. Moreover Taliban's are not in the position to respect International Human Rights Convention and procedures which cause untold havoc and miseries among civilians in Afghanistan.

### **CRISIS IN IRAQ AND RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

United States of America is having a crucial role in the "war of attrition" in Iranian crisis. The Oil Diplomacy failed with Saddam Hussein regime caused a great war between U.S.A and Iraq ultimately ended up with hanging Saddam Hussein with the assistance of due course of International criminal procedures which termed Hussein as war criminal. The aftermath of

hanging was untold miseries in Iraq in which more number of human rights violations occurred. U.S.A assured of withdrawal of its forces in 2011, but the promises are kept in abeyance or dissolved.

The conditions of detainees, journalists and Opposition activists are very poor in prisons. In Feb 2011 there was a huge protest by 1000 people against Federal Iraqi authorities and Kurdistan Region Government (KRG) which was retaliated by violent means. In Feb 21, 2011 there was a nationwide protests and demonstration in which 12 were killed, particularly targeting journalists by confiscating their memory cards from cameras. In June 10, Government backed thugs armed with knives, iron pipes, beaten and stabbed, peaceful protesters which is termed as atrocious and humiliating by International Human Rights Watch group. In Feb 20, the Security forces burnt the National Radio And Television Broadcast (NRTB) causing huge amount of losses for the media, Journalists in Kurdistan are facing harassments and violence and they went hiding because of major in human activities of security forces. In April, the government passed a law by which a person or group in suits against any religion will be imposed with penalty of 1 year jail and 8600 us dollars of fine, which particularly targets the media persons. The elite security forces in Iraq possess unlimited powers of pacifying demonstrations, which got reported only to the Prime minister. These divisions are having areas called "Camp honor" in which the detainees are tortured with all types of mechanical implements and tools. On the part of Women, the discrimination is huge enough. Men got privileged status and can commit with four polygamous marriages, thus spoiling the status of women. There were also forced prostitution, domestic abuse and trafficking which is quite normal happenings in the Kurd region. It is reported that comparatively, there are increased percentage of civilians with either mental or physical disability in Iraq in the recent period.

## **CONCLUSION**

The upcoming civilization conflicts will be only on the basis of religion or ethnic, opined by Huntington. The Nation State System and International Order are organized with lot of tough efforts by world leaders for in order to save humanity from further clashes and conflicts. The existing issues all around the world pose a great threat to all the nations. Conflicts differ from Nation to Nation accordingly on the basis of the problem which it poses. For instance Afghanistan is witnessing a very serious crisis in which government plays along with local militia in unleashing violence against the peaceful protesters. U.S.A with strong backing of Anglo-French-United Nations is fighting with various terrorists organizations for bringing permanent peace in the war torn area. Knowingly or unknowingly Afghanistan is facing severe economic and social crisis which could not be tackled over by its leaders of Afghanistan. Most of the countries at the present junction reform themselves for providing job opportunities only for its people. Most of the Anglo-American countries are denying visa for Islam community, due to major incidents which happened worldwide. If state machinery fails to deliver its inherent duties, then it is up to the International order to decide over the future functioning of the victim Nation. But in view of the nature of the crisis in Iraq and Afghanistan the U.S.A backed NATO forces are facing stiff resistance from the local people and violations of rights in these nations are indefinite.

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